

# WEBINAR

## FIGHTING ENERGY POVERTY FROM EAST TO WEST

**January 15, 2020**

12.00 CET

**Danyel Dubreuil** *(CLER, France)*

**Andrzej Gula** *(Institute for Environmental Economics, Poland)*

**Dragomir Tzanev** *(EnEffect, Bulgaria)*

**Elaine Waterson** *(Existing Homes Alliance, Scotland)*

**& Helen Melone**



Right to  
Energy  
coalition

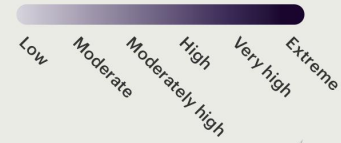
# Energy poverty in Europe

## [The European Energy Poverty Index](#)

EDEPI scores show the majority of EU countries have 'moderately high' to 'extreme' levels of energy poverty among low-income households

| Country           | EDEPI Score |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 Sweden          | 95.4        |
| 2 Finland         | 85.6        |
| 3 Denmark         | 81.9        |
| 4 Austria         | 81.2        |
| 5 Luxembourg      | 80.9        |
| 6 United Kingdom  | 80.5        |
| 7 Ireland         | 79.3        |
| 8 Netherlands     | 78.1        |
| 9 Germany         | 75.8        |
| 10 France         | 73.3        |
| 11 Belgium        | 67.6        |
| 12 Spain          | 64.7        |
| 13 Romania        | 64.2        |
| 14 Poland         | 61.0        |
| 15 Czech Republic | 60.2        |
| 16 Croatia        | 58.8        |
| 17 Malta          | 58.6        |
| 18 Estonia        | 58.0        |
| 19 Italy          | 52.1        |
| 20 Slovenia       | 51.3        |
| 21 Cyprus         | 46.2        |
| 22 Greece         | 43.7        |
| 23 Lithuania      | 42.4        |
| 24 Latvia         | 40.0        |
| 25 Portugal       | 36.7        |
| 26 Slovakia       | 8.4         |
| 27 Hungary        | 6.2         |
| 28 Bulgaria       | 0.7         |

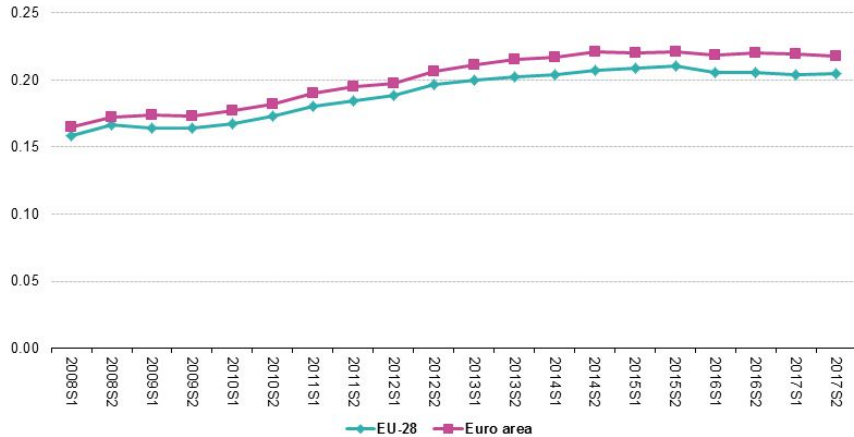
Level of energy poverty:



EDEPI scores show a divide reflecting GDP per capita levels in the EU.

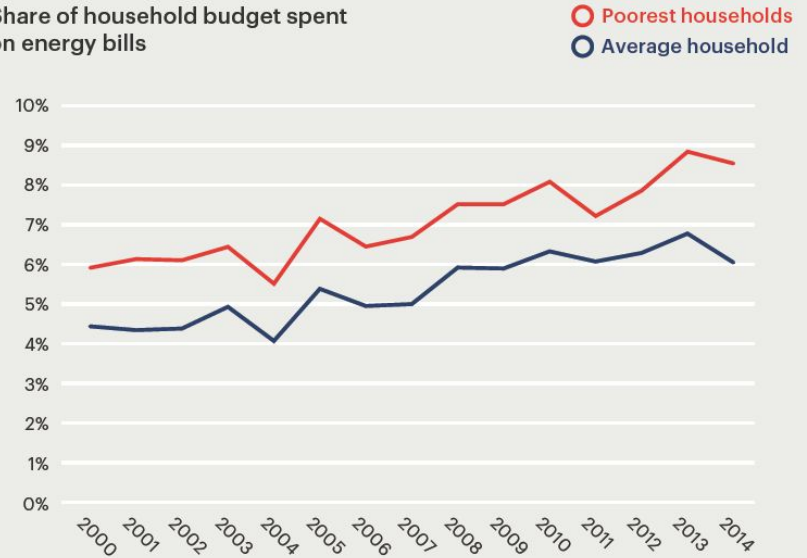
# Causes: Energy prices and income

Development of electricity prices for household consumers, EU-28 and EA, 2008-2017  
(EUR per kWh)



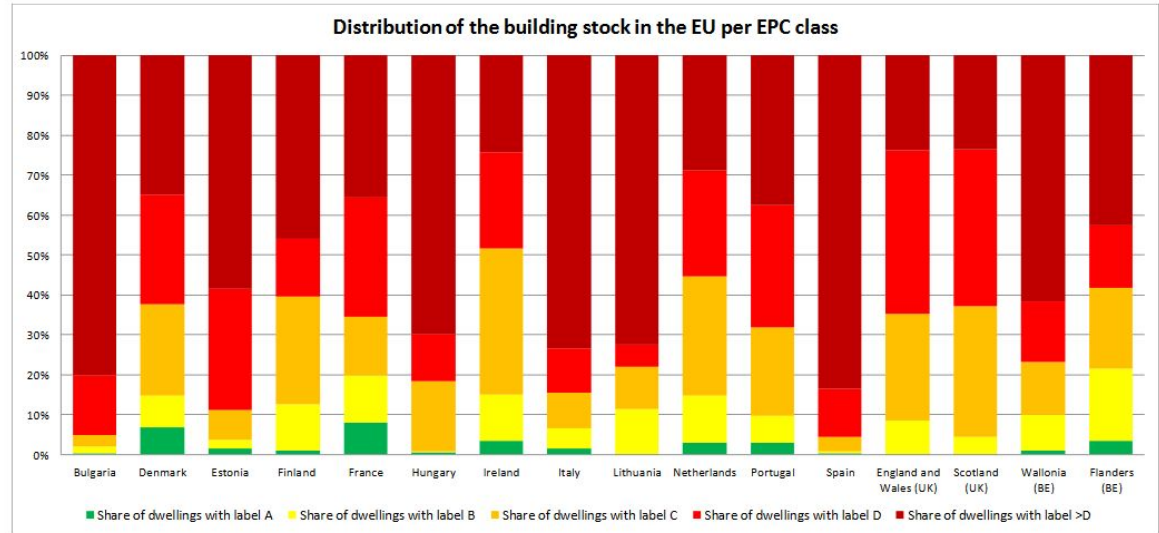
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg\_pc\_204)

Share of household budget spent on energy bills



# Causes: Inefficient buildings

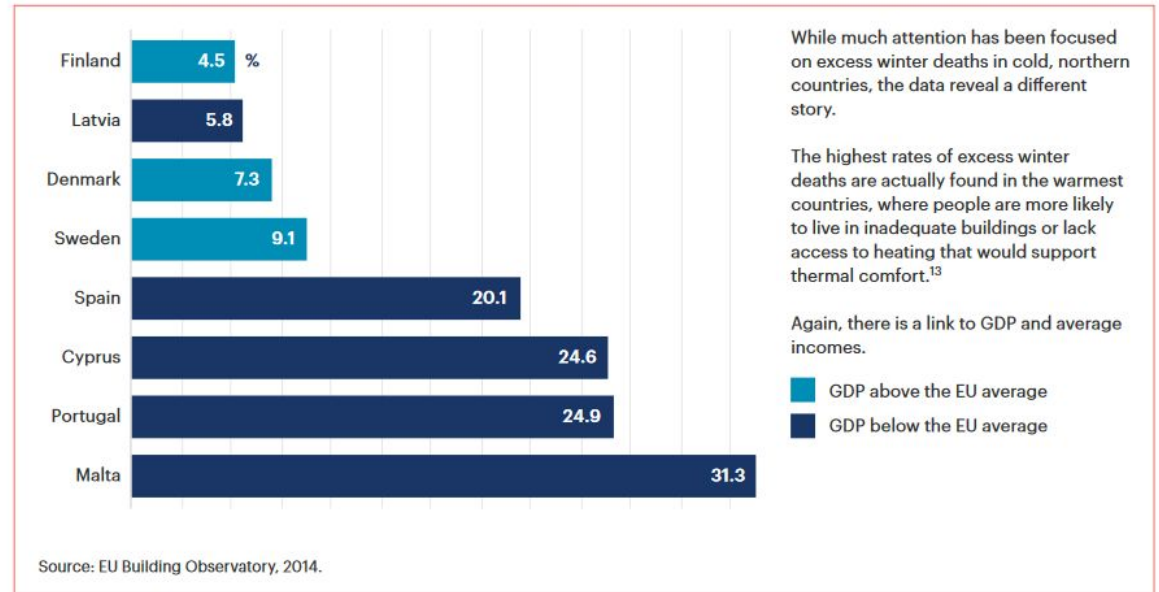
- 97% of the building stock in Europe is **not** in the A category,
- Buildings represent 40% of the EU's energy use,
- The poorest live in the worst buildings.



# Consequences of energy poverty

- poor health due to dampness, mold
- excess winter deaths and heat deaths
- vicious cycle of social exclusion
- air pollution

Fig. 6: Excess winter deaths concentrated in EU's warmest countries



# France



- ❖ *How do we work* : [“Initiative Rénovons !”](#) a multi-stakeholder advocacy approach - since 2016 - the French replica of the [Energy Bill Revolution](#) campaign in the UK. [The RAPPEL network](#) : a national network of actors committed to fighting fuel poverty on a daily basis (experts on solutions)
  - Strategy* : raise and keep the themes of energy efficiency in housing renovation and fuel poverty at a high level on the political agenda in France.
  - Audience* : A position as an influencer of public debate in the circle of experts and policy makers -
  - Why ?* For several years it was the only group organised on this interrelated subjects, combining expertise, communication and advocacy. We have filled a void in civil society expression on a subject at the heart of the fair energy transition.
- ❖ *Difficulties* :
  - complex, multifaceted subjects that require a body of knowledge to be transformed into proposals (Roadmap - challenge to stick to consensus following government announcements)
  - Not always easy to establish a consensus of stakeholders (on solutions, on the posture towards the government).
  - Dialogue is open with the government, but the political trade-offs are not up to the challenges of renovation and fuel poverty.
    - => The consequence is that we have a defined policy (through legislation and action plans), but it remains incremental. There is no qualitative step forward.

# France



- ❖ Opportunities : on the basis of a consensual and robust programme over time (*Rénovons's* Roadmap), we manage to find polarizing topics that we synchronise with a national political agenda (e.g. a draft law) and that offer us a wide audience.

Expressions such as "leaky housing => passoires énergétiques" or the request to "ban the rental of these leaky houses", are good examples of polarizing topics on issues that usually achieve political consensus (...but an empty consensus)

By drawing media and political attention to these divisive issues we regularly demonstrate the need for a qualitative leap in the approach of public authorities (regulatory, financial, training, counselling).

# Poland



## Background:

1. Clean air regulations (antismog resolutions) impose obligations on households to replace solid fuel/coal heating systems (2019, 2021, 2023, 2023 ...)
2. All households regardless their income/wealth are obliged to replace heating systems
3. 80% out of 5.2 million single family buildings use solid fuel boilers/stoves
4. Heat source replacement without the retrofit = higher cost



# Poland



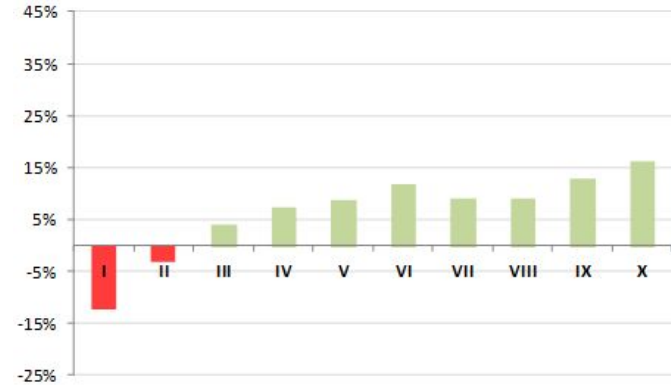
1. Create schemes that would support low-income/poor households to go through this transition process
2. Government committed to establish instruments for low income households (two instruments in place **Stop Smog, Clean Air Priority Program**), strong support of the EC to antismog and energy efficiency measures for poor households
3. Need to integrate Stop Smog subsidy program for low-income households with Clean Air Priority Program (Euro 25 billion over next ten years for residential buildings retrofits)
4. The instruments are being revised now: key challenges: who should get the support (eligibility criteria), what form of the support should be provided.
5. Multifamily buildings are neglected.

# Bulgaria



- topping charts on energy poverty
- air quality issues increasingly attracting public attention
- huge potential for energy efficient renovation of the building stock
- needs to transform the existing finance schemes using excessive grant components towards more sustainable instruments
- poorest households heavily dependent on fuel subsidies
- deep energy retrofit has definite potential to lead significant part of the affected households out of poverty risk
- recent policy brief available at [http://ecoenergy-bg.net/UserFiles/File/NOVINI/Report-EnglishA4\\_compressed.pdf](http://ecoenergy-bg.net/UserFiles/File/NOVINI/Report-EnglishA4_compressed.pdf)

# Bulgaria



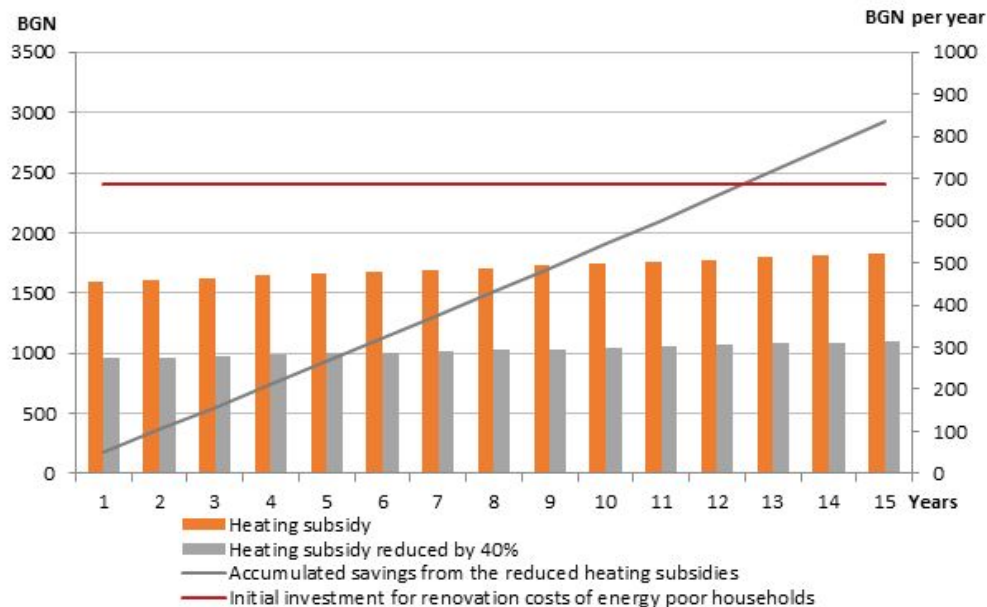
*Difference between average monthly incomes and average monthly total expenses during the winter months when providing "adequate heating" in a dwelling of 65 m<sup>2</sup> after a deep energy renovation.*

*Energy poverty levels in Bulgaria*

# Bulgaria



*Expected impact on public spending by redirecting 40% of target heating aid to finance the equity of energy poor households in renovation programs with 80% grant component and potential energy savings of 40%*



# Scotland

The **existing** homes alliance | scotland



[Existing Homes Alliance](#) (ExHAS) - coalition of housing, environmental, energy advice, consumer organisations arguing for greater investment in existing housing stock to meet climate change and fuel poverty objectives.

- Fuel poverty in Scotland, as compared to the rest of the UK: 25%.
- [Fuel Poverty Act](#) - statutory target to reduce fuel poverty to 5% of households by 2040 (and 1% extreme fuel poverty).
- Fuel poverty definition: in broad terms - 10% of income spent on energy (extreme = 20%) AND after costs for childcare, care need/disability costs deducted, then remaining income is insufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living (this equates to 90% of the [UK Minimum Income Standard](#), higher in rural areas)
- 4 drivers - income, energy price, energy performance of home and how energy is managed

# Scotland



[Challenging climate targets](#) - net-zero by 2045.

National infrastructure priority on energy efficiency of buildings - [Energy Efficient Scotland](#) (£10 - £12 billion, 12 - 14 billion Euro).

Just transition - ensure fuel poor benefit from low carbon transition - warm, healthy and affordable to heat homes. Scottish Government created a [Just Transition Commission](#), focus across a number of sectors - transport, housing, agriculture and petrochemicals

Scottish Government funded:

- [National fuel poverty programme](#)
- [Locally led area-based programmes](#)
- Impartial advice and support - [Home Energy Scotland](#) - delivered with local partnerships on the ground.

For further information about the home energy efficiency programmes delivered by the Energy Saving Trust on behalf of the Scottish Government please see:

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/EST%20Programmes%20In%20Scotland%20FINAL.pdf>

Further information can also be found on the Scottish Government's website here:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/home-energy-and-fuel-poverty/energy-saving-home-improvements/>

# Right to Energy coalition

- Brings together unions, anti-poverty organisations, environmental NGOs, health organisations, energy cooperatives, social housing providers...
- Joint advocacy and movement building work, including with allies at the national level.

<https://righttoenergy.org>

<https://twitter.com/righttoenergy>



# Contacts

- Danyel Dubreuil, (CLER, France)  
[danyel.dubreuil@cler.org](mailto:danyel.dubreuil@cler.org)
- Andrzej Gula & Anna Dworakowska (Institute for Environmental Economics, Poland)  
[2050an@gmail.com](mailto:2050an@gmail.com) ; [amdworakowska@gmail.com](mailto:amdworakowska@gmail.com)
- Dragomir Tzanev (EnEffect, Bulgaria)  
[dtzanev@eneffect.bg](mailto:dtzanev@eneffect.bg)
- Elaine Waterson & Helen Malone (Existing Homes Alliance, Scotland) [Elaine.Waterson@est.org.uk](mailto:Elaine.Waterson@est.org.uk) ;  
[helen.melone@eas.org.uk](mailto:helen.melone@eas.org.uk)
- Clémence Hutin (Right to Energy / Friends of the Earth Europe) [clemence.hutin@foeeurope.org](mailto:clemence.hutin@foeeurope.org)

